IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A recovery method for use at a layer 2 tunneling protocol (L2TP) sender, the method comprising the steps of:

sending packets directed to an L2TP peer; and

initiating a recovery process upon ~~detection of multiple messages~~ receiving a predetermined number of negative acknowledgements from the L2TP peer indicative that the L2TP peer is still waiting for a prior transmitted packet.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the multiple messages are negative acknowledgements.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the initiating step includes the step of sending a packet that includes a "Reset *Sr*" (*R-bit*) indicator for resetting a next received sequence number, *Nr*, value at the L2TP peer.

4. (Previously Presented) A recovery method for use at a layer 2 tunneling protocol (L2TP) sender, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a packet from an L2TP peer, the received packet including a next received sequence number, *Nr*; value;

determining if the *Nr* value represents a negative acknowledgement; and

initiating a recovery process with the L2TP peer upon receiving a predetermined number of such negative acknowledgements.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the recovery process includes the step of sending a packet that includes a "Reset *Sr*" (*R-bit*) indicator for resetting a next received sequence number, *Nr*, value at the L2TP peer.

6. (Currently Amended) A recovery method for use at a layer 2 tunneling protocol (L2TP) sender, the method comprising the steps of:

sending packets directed to an L2TP peer; and

initiating a recovery process upon ~~detection of~~ either ~~multiple messages~~ receiving a predetermined number of negative acknowledgements from the L2TP peer indicative that the L2TP peer is still waiting for a prior transmitted packet, or ~~if~~ occurrence of a predetermined payload time-out ~~occurs~~ with respect to the prior transmitted packet.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the multiple messages are negative acknowledgements.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the initiating step includes the step of sending a packet that includes a "Reset *Sr*" (*R-bit*) indicator for resetting a next received sequence number, *Nr*, value at the L2TP peer.

9. (Currently Amended) A packet interface for use in forming a layer 2 tunneling protocol (L2TP) at an L2TP sender, the packet interface comprising:

a communications interface for sending packets directed to an L2TP peer; and

a processor for initiating a recovery process upon ~~detection of multiple messages~~ receiving a predetermined number of negative acknowledgements from the L2TP peer indicative that the L2TP peer is still waiting for a prior transmitted packet.

10. (Original) The packet interface of claim 9 wherein the multiple messages are negative acknowledgements.

11. (Original) The packet interface of claim 9 wherein the processor sends a packet that includes a "Reset *Sr*" (*R-bit*) indicator for resetting a next received sequence number, *Nr*, value at the L2TP peer as part of the initiated recovery process.

12. (Previously Presented) A packet interface for use in forming a layer 2 tunneling protocol (L2TP) at an L2TP sender, the packet interface comprising:

a communications interface for receiving a packet from an L2TP peer, the received packet including a next received sequence number, *Nr*; value; and

a processor for determining (a) if the *Nr* value represents a negative acknowledgement; (b) if a predetermined number of such negative acknowledgements have been received, and (c) initiating a recovery process with the L2TP peer upon a determination being made that a predetermined number of such negative acknowledgements have been received.

13. (Previously Presented) The packet interface of claim 12 wherein the processor sends a packet that includes a "Reset *Sr*" (*R-bit*) indicator for resetting the next received sequence number, *Nr*, value at the L2TP peer as part of the initiated recovery process.